

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, September 20, 1875, with transcript

Letter from Miss Mabel G. Hubbard to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell At Brantford, Ontario. Bethel Maine, Sept. 20th, 1875. Dear Mr. Bell:

I received your letter a few days ago and thank you for it. I was much pleased to hear that you and your father understand each other so well now, and that you are so happy with him, your mother and cousins.

How pleasant it must be for your mother that these young ladies have come to keep her company. I am afraid she found it very lonely without you and your sister-in-law. Your father also must be happy in the society of the brother from whom he has so long been separated.

You astonish me by your account of the grapes. I had no idea they would grow so far north. Brantford surely is colder than Bethel, yet the grapes here seem poor and scarce. I am inclined to envy you your daily horse-back exercise. I have had few rides but whenever I have been on a horse I always have been supremely happy, and never frightened even if it ran away with me.

Bethel is lovely. If the sun would only shine longer than five minutes at a time and oftener than once or twice every other day it would be perfect. I came here a week ago, and have had a few drives in the intervals of rain, and think that though I have seen grander places in Europe, I never saw a prettier one. The mountains are all soft rounded shapes, the valley uneven and full of gentle wooded eminences among which is the village spreading along either bank of the lovely Androscoggin River all making a series of such charming pictures. I long to be able to paint them and so have them always before me. I 2 hope

Library of Congress

strangers will not discover the beauty of this country and come and spoil the freshness of it as they have done Europe.

Miss True and I are waiting impatiently for clear weather so we can make a little tour of the White Mountains. We mean to go principally by carriage so as to be able to stop and visit any place of interest on our route. We hope to go to The Glen, Jefferson, Crawford's, North Conway and there about.

While waiting to start I have been reading three pamphlets entitled "Researches in the Phenomena of Spiritualism," by N. Crookes, F. R. S. I wonder if you have read it, and what you think of it. I have been much interested, and do not see how the conclusions the author arrives at can be explained away. He investigates everything in a fair impartial way, so determined to arrive at the truth at whatever cost, it is impossible not to believe him and be convinced he did see what he asserts. I always thought there must be some truth in Spiritualism or it would not be so widespread and count so many adherents, but have never liked to think of it for it seems such a desecration of our holiest and best feelings that the spirits of the dead should return and perform such juggler's tricks as moving and "tapping" furniture, talking and writing such nonsense as most mediums make them. It profanes the holiness of God Himself, bringing Him down to the level of a circus performer, and disgusting us with the very idea of Christianity. I was so glad when I found that distinguished scientific men thought these supernatural appearances were not the work of spirits. But how can Psychic Force account for Katie King? That there was fraud in this case seems impossible. If she was a spirit she would certainly act more in the manner of the saints and angels of old.

When may we hope to see you again in Cambridge. You will find a sadly diminished household if you return now, not only am I here, but my auntie Berta and sister Berta are also among the mountains, and all my cousins and aunts have returned to their several homes.

Library of Congress

Hoping to hear from you again and with kindest regards,

Sincerely your friend, Mabel G. Hubbard. Miss True desires to be remembered most kindly to you.